Altsys News
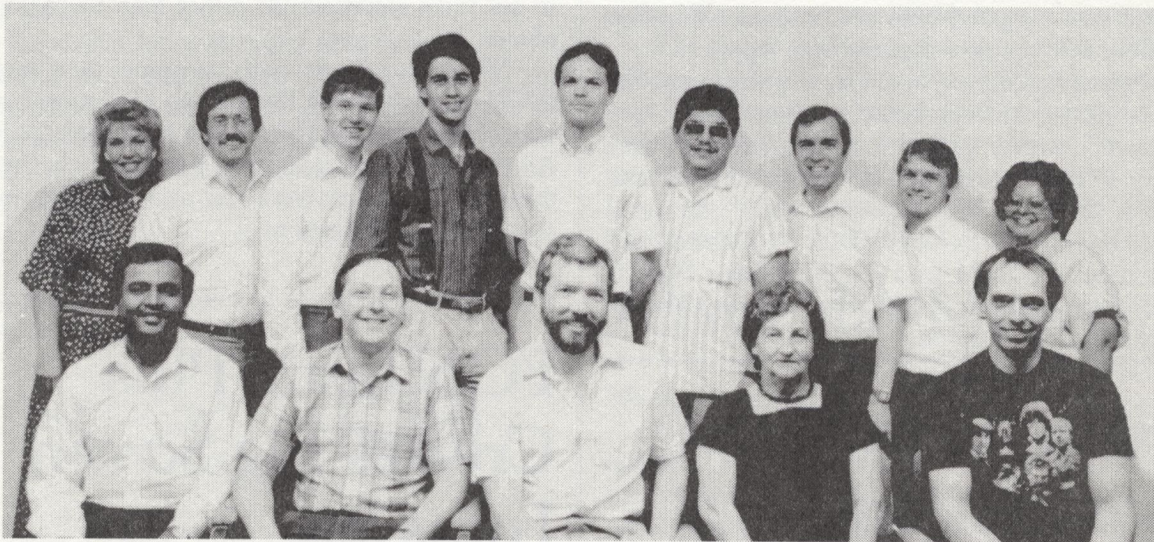
Altsys Staff (back left to right): Dianne Badenhop, Brian Welter, David Spells, James Brasure, Gary Odom, Gerard Muniz, Earl Allen, Rusty Williams, Chris Clark. (front left to right) Parry Kejriwal, Kevin Crowder, Jim Von Ehr, Ruth Jones, Pete Mason.

FONTastic Plus 2.0 Now Available

We're proud to announce that FONTastic™ Plus has been upgraded to handle the new NFNT resources. NFNTs allow for font ID numbers much larger than 256 and should allow many more fonts to be installed in your system without causing font numbering conflicts.

Contents

With FONTastic Plus 2.0 you can now create fonts which exceed the 128K limit imposed by FONTastic Plus 1.4. Fonts can now take up to 256K for each point size. This should accommodate even the very largest point sizes. For example, you can now edit the Times 96 point font that comes with the LaserWriter® IISC. You'll also be able to use the **Scale** item from the **Effects** menu to make the large point sizes required by the IISC and the ImageWriter® LQ.

FONTastic Plus can also edit a font's kerning and width tables, allowing you to make precise changes to the spacing of any Macintosh font. Version 2.0 adds the ability to copy a kerning table from one font to another so you'll be able to kern a font without having to start from scratch.

We also fixed the screen update problems that used to occur on the Macintosh™ II when it was in color mode. FONTastic Plus 2.0 can now display (but not edit or install) color fonts.

Since Apple® Computer has declined to act as a clearinghouse for assigning NFNT FOND IDs, Altsys is committed to keeping a database of all NFNT IDs so that font makers can avoid assigning conflicting IDs to their fonts. If you're a maker of NFNT fonts, please call Earl at (214) 424-4888 before you distribute your fonts.

FONTastic Goes to Software Heaven

Our venerable FONTastic program is no longer available. The reasons for this are many, and include the fact that FONTastic was compiled with a C compiler that was incompatible with the new Systems from Apple.

We stopped making any about six months ago, so the last ones on dealer's shelves should be gone soon.

We have, however, provided an upgrade path from FONTastic to FONTastic Plus: send us your FONTastic master disk or (if you're a registered user) your serial number along with a check for $45.00 (or your MasterCard or Visa number) and we'll send you FONTastic Plus 2.0. (Foreign orders please include $10.00 for shipping.) The upgrade includes a new manual.

Version Alert: Latest Altsys Versions

Here's a list of all of Altsys' programs, their versions and upgrade costs:

If you have:	You'll upgrade to:	It will cost:
FONTastic	FONTastic Plus 2.0	$45.00
FONTastic Plus versions 1.0-1.4	FONTastic Plus 2.0	$20.00 unless accompanied by proof of purchase after April 15, 1988, then free
Fontographer® 2.2 and earlier	Fontographer 2.4.1	$30.00
Fontographer 2.3	Fontographer 2.4.1	free if you send us your master disk

Foreign orders: add $10.00 for shipping and handling.

If you've never sent us your registration card, or it has been lost, you must send us the original master disk with your upgrade order or we will not process it and will have to return it to you. If you *have* registered your serial number with us, it will be printed on this newsletter's mailing label.

Your Questions Answered Online

If you have questions about FONTastic Plus or Fontographer, you may find it less expensive and more convenient to ask them electronically rather than by calling on the phone.

We now support both programs on CompuServe (72777,742 or the MACPRO forum—any subject with font in it), MCI Mail (ALTSYS), and AppleLink (D0590). Earl Allen, our Technical Support Manager, checks each of these services every work day and will give immediate answers to your questions.

FONTastic Plus Creates Big Screen Fonts

ImageWriter LQ and LaserWriter IISC Benefit from FONTastic Plus

If you've been unhappy with the dearth of good large fonts for the ImageWriter LQ and the LaserWriter IISC, you need FONTastic Plus 2.0. With FONTastic Plus you can resize existing fonts up to 127 points and then edit them for aesthetics.

The IISC requires a font four times the size of the font you've chosen in order to print high quality. Actually, you'll name the font as a 4X font (12pt.–>48pt.), but the ascent plus descent should be 4 1/6X (12pt.–>50pt.) The LQ requires a font three times the one you've chosen. When you have these 4X and 3X fonts in your System, the printing quality on your IISC or LQ will be much improved.

Here's how FONTastic Plus can help you get great looking text: You'll need to open the font's largest size and use the **Scale** item from the **Effects** menu to scale the font to some multiple of an existing font size. Next, you use FONTastic Plus' editing capabilities to clean up and smooth the scaled font. Then **Save As . . .**, making sure to specify the resized font's new font size.

You then install the font in your System file and choose a font size one fourth (for the IISC) or one third the size of the font you've just created. When you print, the printer driver substitutes the 4X or 3X font for the size you've chosen, and your printouts look three to four times better than they would have had you not used FONTastic Plus.

Keystroke Art Finally Available

Keystroke Art, Altsys' only piece of vaporware ever, has left the vaporware category and is now available to an inquiring public.

The Keystroke Art application note explains how to use Fontographer to create designs and logos that you can use in any Macintosh document. Accompanying the 24 page application note is a disk containing the KeyStrokeArt outline file in Fontographer format. The KeyStrokeArt font is useable on any Macintosh, but to take full advantage of the outline file, you must have the Fontographer program.

Here are some examples of the kind of logos you'll learn how to design:

As an added bonus you'll get a complete explanation of how to clone any of the built-in LaserWriter fonts to enable you to add artwork, rearrange the letters, or modify the characters of those built-in fonts.

Keystroke Art is priced at only $15.00, including shipping to North American addresses. Outside North America, add $5.00 shipping. You can also order Keystroke Art by phone (MasterCard, Visa or COD). Just call us at (214) 424-4888.

The FreeHand Story

You heard about Masterpiece. You heard about Kaleidoscope. You might even have heard about Yellowstone.

Now the secret is out and we're free to talk about FreeHand™, the premier drawing program for the Macintosh, available from Aldus Corporation with programming work done exclusively here at Altsys. We think you'll enjoy using FreeHand as much as we enjoyed creating it.

If you're looking for a drawing program that can handle text, drawing, and color the way they were meant to be handled, you'll want to look over the FreeHand flyer we've included with this newsletter. Or you can get more information from Aldus Corporation at 1-800-332-5387. (In Washington state, call 206-628-2375.) Aldus' address is: 411 1st Avenue South, Suite 200, Seattle, WA 98104.

A Library of Faces

Altsys' library of quality fonts continues to be one of the best sources of PostScript® fonts on the Macintosh. All our fonts were designed and edited with either Fontographer or FONTastic Plus.

Most of our Fontographer fonts even include the outline file, a bonus not available from other font suppliers.

The text of this newsletter is in Goudy OldStyle, developed by Judy Sutcliffe. The Altsys News on the first page is in Venezia, a font created by Richard Beatty. Be sure to look over the font flyer that accompanies this newsletter for examples of all our other fonts.

If you've developed a new font, we've got a handsome royalty system set up for you. Call Parry at (214) 424-4888.

Altsys Has Moved

We've moved.

In the past few weeks Altsys has grown out of its old quarters. We have added several new programmers and some support staff. Our new quarters are approximately twice as large as our old offices, where many of the programmers didn't have a window. The new space has windows for nearly all the programmers.

Fortunately the move is only a few feet over in the building we've been in all along. The only difference you'll notice is that you'll send us mail at 720 Avenue F, Suite 109, Plano, Texas 75074. (Our old suite number was 108.)

Family Builder Builds Font Families

Have you ever wished you could bring together all the styles of a font into a single unit that could be installed as a unit with FONTastic Plus? Have you ever wished you could create font families like the ones available from Altsys or Adobe? Then you need the Family Builder.

Family Builder can take a font and all its styled versions and build them into a family. This means that when you choose a styled version of a font, rather than having the Macintosh build a crude approximation for you, you'll be able to see a styled font you've created specially with FONTastic Plus.

It's true that FONTastic Plus 2.0 can now perform some of Family Builder's tricks, but it only works with bitmap fonts; for PostScript fonts you'll still need Family Builder.

In short, if you're a serious font maker you need Family Builder like you need no other program.

Fontographer: The Font/Logo Design Program

Those of you who own FONTastic Plus may wonder why anyone would need Fontographer. Well, recently we've found some uses for Fontographer that will attract even people who would normally need only FONTastic Plus.

For example, Fontographer can easily create the very large fonts that make output on the LaserWriter IISC or the ImageWriter LQ look good.

Rather than creating a multitude of bitmap sizes by hand, you draw the font's outlines once and let Fontographer generate all the bitmaps in all the large sizes you need. With this approach, sizes over 36 points should require only minimal hand editing with FONTastic Plus.

Version 2.4.1

For Fontographer users who don't have version 2.4.1, you should note that we've added several new features, including a circle tool. We've made Fontographer completely compatible with MultiFinder, System 6.0 and LaserWriter 5.2. Also, registered users now receive un-copy-protected disks when they register. If you're still using version 2.2 or older, you can upgrade for only $30.00. See the order form below for details.

So if you need a program that allows you to draw and print logos and artwork with single keystrokes (see Keystroke Art, page 3), and can produce both PostScript fonts and high-quality large-sized bitmap fonts, then Fontographer is the program you need.

Apple Uses FONTastic Plus

Apple Computer has been using FONTastic Plus to create screen fonts. Many of the new larger sized fonts you get with the ImageWriter LQ and LaserWriter IISC were edited with FONTastic Plus. If you have FONTastic Plus, you can (and probably will want to) edit them even more.

Order form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country _____ Phone _____

____Check ____MasterCard ____Visa   Card number _____

Expiration date _____ Signature _____

_____ FONTastic to FONTastic Plus upgrade ($45.00—add $10.00 for foreign airmail)
requires FONTastic serial number: _____
You must return your master FONTastic disk if your registration card is not on file or we'll return your order

_____ FONTastic Plus 1.x to 2.01 upgrade ($20.00—add $10.00 for foreign airmail)
requires FONTastic Plus 1.x serial number: _____
You must return your master disk if your registration card is not on file or we'll return your order

_____ FONTastic Plus 2.01 ($99.95, shipping included—add $10.00 for foreign airmail)

_____ Fontographer 2.4.1 ($395.00, shipping included—add $10.00 for foreign airmail)

_____ Fontographer 2.4.1 update ($30.00, shipping included—add $10.00
for foreign airmail) Fontographer serial number: _____

_____ Family Builder ($100.00 shipping included—add $10.00 for foreign airmail)

_____ Keystroke Art ($15.00 shipping included—add $5.00 for foreign airmail)

Order fonts from the order form on the font flyer.

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